

Classroom News ~ Room 204



February 2012

Last month...

Boy January just flew by, did it? Well, we’ve been working really hard. We needed some time to get back into momentum after the holidays, however the students have done a wonderful job. They’ve quickly readjusted and we’re right back on track. Recently, we’ve wrapped up our Science unit on Motion and Design. The students did a wonderful job and created some awesome final projects! Kudos to each of you!!

In mathematics, we began our 5th unit, Multiplication. During January we spent time creating array cards and really looking at what exactly multiplication is. The students are doing well with this concept. Soon you will see multiplication combinations come home for at home practice.

Our reading block is going really well. We are using a project-based format. The children are given 9 learning options for each mini-unit. After we’ve spent some time working with and learning about a reading strategy, the children are then given tic-tac-toe boards of literacy learning projects. They make responsible choices daily for 4 to 5 days with regard to what project they’d like to work on to further exercise this strategy and develop their skills. It is going really well. The children are really making some gains in taking responsibility and choosing to work on things / in areas that they enjoy. Be sure to ask you child about this aspect of our day!

Last month we also continued our study of Wisconsin History. We’ve been working our way through Wisconsin’s major waterways and their impact on settlement in Wisconsin, as well as those all important first explorers.

It was a busy month…

This Month…

This month we will continue to work hard in all academic areas. We’ll be finishing up our Narrative Writing piece and sharing those with our classmates to work on formal presentation skills. Once our narrative writing pieces are finalized we’ll move into Creative Writing. Students will once again be introduced to the writing genre and allowed to choose their own topics to work on while exercising their writing skills.

We’ve begun to work with making Inferences within and surrounding text in reading. It’s been interesting hearing the children’s interpretation of text and various items we’ve been using to make inferences. They are very good at sharing their prior knowledge (schema), as well as modifying their inferences when presented with new information.

In math we’ve moved on to Unit 5, Multiplication. We will continue to work on looking at things in groups and relating that concept to multiplication. You can further support your child in this unit by encouraging them to practice their addition and multiplication cards nightly at home.

We’re beginning to work with Weather in Science and continuing our study of Wisconsin History and Map Skills in Social Studies. The students are doing a great job and I look forward to another great month with them!

Upcoming Events:

* Monday, February 6 - 3rd and 4th grade music department demonstration @ EW Luther, 10:45 – 11:45
* Tuesday, February 14 – Room 204 Valentine’s Day Celebration, 3:00 – 3:20 (see attached sheet for further information)
* Monday, February 20 – Six Flags Reading Logs Due
* Tuesday, February 21 – HS Music Concert, SMHS, 9:30 – 11:00
* Tuesday, February 21 – Early Release Day, Dismissal @ 11:30
* Wednesday, February 22 – 3rd and 4th grade Wisconsin Dairy Council Presentation, EW Luther, 9:00 – 10:00
* Tuesday, February 28 – Luther Spring Concert, SMPAC, 6:30 – 8:00

Classroom Calendar available online at **[tinyurl.com/horsleycal](http://tinyurl.com/horsleycal)**

Celebrations!

We have two February Birthdays!

Happy Birthday Anna, February 13th!!

Happy Birthday Chloe, February 24th!!

Monthly Life Skills Focus:

This month’s Life Skill focuses on ...

Respects Cultural Diversity and Pluralism

This life-skill deals with showing respect for diversity and working cooperatively with people of differing backgrounds. At the third and fourth grade level this translates into showing respect to others, being able to disagree in a respectful manner, help others when they are being teased, etc.

\*\*Feel free to carry work on this life skill over into your home and reinforce working toward being a productive worker in every aspect of your child’s life.

Special Notes:

~ Food Allergies present in the classroom: Dairy, Food Dyes, and Peanuts

Please be considerate when sending in birthday treats and/or snacks to share.

~ During the month of FEBRUARY we will be collecting Hair related items for the South Milwaukee Human Concerns. Examples of items to donate consist of:

* Shampoo
* Conditioner
* Combs
* Brushes
* Detangler
* Hair Gel

We are also still collecting items from prior months collections…

* November = Paper Goods
* December = Skin Care
* January = Tooth Related Items

Useful Resources:

* Classroom Website: **[wiki.sdsm.k12.wi.us/groups/mrshorsleysclassroom/](http://wiki.sdsm.k12.wi.us/groups/mrshorsleysclassroom/)**
* Classroom Calendar: [**tinyurl.com/horsleycal**](http://tinyurl.com/horsleycal)
* School Website: **www.sdsm.k12.wi.us**

# **Valentine’s Day Celebration!**

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday, February 14th, we will have a small Valentine Party in the afternoon (3:00 – 3:20). We ask that if your child chooses to distribute valentines that he/she brings one valentine for every student in the class. A class list is printed below. Your child may also bring a treat to share and something to drink if they would like. (Please remember that we have a no soda rule here at Luther.)

Happy Valentine’s Day!

*Mrs. Horsley*

4th Grade   
 Conner Ryan   
 Gasior Kayla   
 Greenhill Seth   
 Henry Ayanna   
 Horsley Joshua   
 Jones Chloe   
 Kalenuik Lianna   
 Lorino Anna   
 Martin Jada   
 Tomaszewski Serene   
 Vajagich George   
 Rodriguez Dianalis  
 Vattendahl Arian

3rd Grade   
 Beamon Monta   
 Benn Abby   
 Binon Emma   
 Cartwright Isaac   
 Charon Brooke   
 Follis Boston   
 McCarty Madelyn   
 Moen Nathan   
 Spankowski Finn   
 Suszek Connor   
 Wendorf Dominick